

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/751,716

Applicant(s)

DE MOL VAN OTTERLOO,
MAARTEN JOOST

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on September 20, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/20/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 20, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed September 20, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John A. Krause (Reg. No. 24,613) on October 20, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for printing, within a user network, a label to be used to return a component, comprising:

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an appliance connected to the user network, the appliance comprising a removable component, wherein the removable component is provided with a memory storing information identifying the removable component;

a detection unit configured to detect a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the removable component located within the appliance;

a first communication unit connected to the user network and configured to communicate with a remote server through a second network,

wherein the first communication unit is configured to send the remote server a request to receive data representing information to be included in images on a label to be printed and used to return the removable component, when the condition regarding the end of lifetime of the removable component located within the appliance has been detected by the detection unit, and

wherein the request includes information identifying the removable component to be returned; and

a second communication unit connected to the user network and configured to communicate with the remote server through the second network,

wherein the second communication unit is configured to receive data from the remote server, including the data representing information to be included in images on the label to be used to return the removable component, the images representing the information identifying the removable component to be returned.

2. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 1, wherein the first communication unit comprises a local server connected to the user network and is configured to communicate with the remote server through the second network.

3. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 2, wherein the second communication unit is located within the local server.

4. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 1, wherein the first communication unit is located within the appliance.

5. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 1, wherein the second communication unit is located within the appliance.

6. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the appliance comprises a messaging unit configured to send the first communication unit a triggering message including the information identifying the removable component, when the detection unit has detected the condition regarding the end of lifetime of the removable component.

7. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the appliance comprises a second memory storing information for identifying at least one removable component and status information about a lifetime of each removable component, and wherein the first communication unit comprises a memory access unit configured to access the second memory.

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8. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 1, wherein the information for identifying the removable component to be returned is represented by a barcode embedded in the label.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 1, further comprising a printer connected to the user network, wherein the second communication unit is configured to send data representing the label to the printer.

10. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the first communication unit comprises a memory storing information for identifying the appliance.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to Claim 10, wherein the request sent by the first communication unit to the remote server includes the information identifying the appliance.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for printing a label according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the appliance comprises a printing device.

13. (Previously Presented) A label server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component of an appliance, the server being connected to a network and being configured to communicate with at least one local server connected to the network, the label server comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive, from a local server, a request to send the local server data representing a label to be used to return a removable

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component, the request including information identifying the removable component;

a retrieval unit configured to retrieve from the request the information identifying the removable component;

an authentication unit configured to authenticate the information identifying the removable component;

a data generation unit configured to generate data representing a label to be used to return the removable component, the label including data representing the information identifying the component, wherein the data representing the label is generated only if the information identifying the removable component has been correctly authenticated; and

a transmission unit configured to send to the local server the data representing the label.

14. (Previously Presented) A label server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 13, further comprising a memory access unit configured to access a memory storing authentication data.

15. (Previously Presented) A label server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 14, wherein the information identifying the removable component is authenticated by the authentication unit if the authentication data stored in the memory includes data associated with the information identifying the removable component.

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16. (Previously Presented) A label server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 14, wherein the memory is included in the label server.

17. (Previously Presented) A label server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 13, wherein the request received from the local server includes information for identifying the appliance, the information identifying the appliance being used by the authentication unit to authenticate the request received from the local server.

18. (Previously Presented) A server for generating a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 13, wherein the information identifying the removable component is included in the label and is represented as a barcode embedded in the label.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for printing in a user network a label to be used to return a removable component, the user network comprising a local server configured to communicate through a second network with a remote server, and comprising an appliance including a removable component, the removable component including a memory storing information for identifying the removable component, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

determining a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the removable component;

reading the information for identifying the removable component from the memory;

sending a request to the remote server, when the condition regarding the end of lifetime of the removable component has been determined, to receive data representing a label to be used to return the removable component, the request including the information identifying the removable component; and

receiving, from the remote server, data representing information to be included in images on a label to be printed and used to return the removable component, the images representing the information identifying the removable component to be returned.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for printing in a user network a label according to Claim 19, further comprising step of sending a triggering message to the local server when the condition regarding the end of lifetime of the removable component has been determined.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for printing in a user network a label according to Claim 19, wherein the information identifying the removable component is represented by a barcode embedded in the label.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for printing in a user network a label according to Claim 19, wherein the request sent to the remote server includes information identifying the appliance.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for printing in a user network a label according to Claim 19, further comprising the step of printing the label.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for generating, in a label server, a label to be used for returning a removable component of an appliance, the label

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server being connected to a network and being configured to communicate through the network with at least one local server, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a local server a request to send the local server data representing a label to be used to return a removable component, the request including information for identifying the removable component;

retrieving from the request the information identifying the removable component;

authenticating the information identifying the removable component;

generating data representing a label to be used to return the removable component, the label including data representing the information identifying the removable component,

wherein the data representing the label is generated only if the information identifying the removable component has been correctly authenticated; and

sending to the local server the data representing the label.

25. (Previously Presented) A method for generating, in a label server, a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 24, wherein the step of authenticating the information identifying the removable component includes accessing authentication data stored in a memory accessible by the label server.

26. (Previously Presented) A method for generating, in a label server, a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 25,

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wherein the information identifying the removable component is authenticated if the authentication data stored in the memory includes data associated with the information identifying the removable component.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for generating, in a label server, a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 24, wherein the request received from the local server includes information identifying the appliance, and wherein the authentication step includes using the information identifying the appliance to authenticate the request received from the local server.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for generating, in a label server, a label to be used for returning a removable component according to Claim 24, wherein the information identifying the removable component is included in the label and is represented as a barcode embedded in the label.

29. (Previously Amended) A component configured to be incorporated in and removed from an appliance that is connected to a user network, the component comprising a memory storing information for identifying the component, wherein the information stored in the memory is represented in images on used to create a label to be printed and used for returning the component when a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the component has been determined.

30. (Previously Presented) A component according to Claim 29, wherein the information identifying the component is unique to the component.

31. (Previously Presented) A component according to Claim 29, further comprising an access control unit configured to allow information stored in the memory to be accessible to the appliance in which the component is located.

32. (Currently Amended) A local server programmed to perform a method as set out in any one of Claims 19 to 23, wherein the programmed method is stored in a computer-readable storage medium.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions for programming a processing apparatus to perform a method as set out in any one of Claims 19 to 28.

34. (Previously Presented) A computer program product embodying a computer-readable program for programming a processing apparatus to perform a method as set out in any one of Claims 19 to 28.

35. (Currently Amended) A signal carrying computer-readable instructions for programming a processing apparatus to perform a method as set out in any one of Claims 19 to 28.

36. (Previously Presented) A system for printing, within a user network, a label to be used to return a component, comprising:

an appliance connected to the user network, the appliance including:

at least one removable component, each removable component being provided with a memory storing information for identifying that removable component, and

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a detector configured to detect a condition regarding an end of lifetime of a removable component located within the appliance; and

a local server connected to the user network and configured to communicate with at least one remote server through a second network, and with the appliance through the user network the local server being configured:

to send to the remote server a request to receive data representing a label to be used to return a component, when a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the component to be returned, which is located within the appliance, has been detected by the detector, the request including information for identifying the component to be returned, and

to receive from the remote server the data representing the label to be used to return the component, the label including the information identifying the component to be returned.

37. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 36, wherein the local server is located within the appliance.

38. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 37, further comprising a printer connected to the user network, wherein the local server sends the data representing the label to the printer.

39. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 36, wherein the appliance comprises a printer.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-39 are allowed.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the cited prior art of the record teaches, discloses, or fairly suggests the claimed system and method for generating a label to return a component using a plurality of different network and memory device storing information identifying the component when the component is to be returned or when a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the component has been determined. After further search and thorough examination of the present application and in view of the Applicant's arguments and amendments, claims 1-39 are found to be in condition for allowance over the prior art made of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30a-2:00p (Maxi-Flex*).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp